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Wednesday, October 14, 2026

WOW – Word on Wednesday
The Blueprint for Powerful Practical Living!
Jeremiah 17:7-9

Intro: In Jeremiah 17, the Prophet speaks to a nation standing at a critical spiritual crossroad. Surrounded by political instability and tempting foreign alliances, Judah was increasingly tempted to trust human power rather than the Living God. Jeremiah cuts through this political and social noise to deliver a timeless universal truth about human nature. By drawing a sharp contrast between the anchored life of God, and the dangerously deceptive nature of self-reliance, let's examine exactly where our roots are planted!

1. The Profile of a Blessed Life (vs 7)

A. The definition of Biblical Trust: it is active and focused.

- Trust is not a vague feeling of optimism or a passive wish that things will turn out well. Proverbs 3:5-6
- Biblical trust is a total, active reliance on the character, Word and power of God. Psalm 34:8
- It requires a specific object: You cannot simply have “faith in faith”, or faith in yourself. It requires a greater object. Isaiah 26:3
- It is relational, not transaction-based: It is not a contract where you do good deeds and God repays you.
- It's a deep relationship built on His proven faithfulness.
- It drives action and obedience: True trust is never passive (if you trust that a chair will hold you, you sit in it). If you trust God's Word, you stand on it!

B. The Result of True Alignment

- The word Blessed (esher) implies flourishing, right alignment, and enviable joy under God's favor.
- True blessing is determined by the object of trust, not your current circumstances.

2. The Picture of Lasting Stability (vs 8)

A. The Position: Intentionally situated

- “Planted by the water” = not growing by accident, but intentionally sustained by the Source of Life. Psalm 1:1-3
- “Sends out its roots” = unseen spiritual disciplines (prayer, scriptures, community, ministry) that anchors the soul. John 15:4-5
- How do you know if you are planted like a tree? You can identify if you are truly planted by evaluating four distinct areas:
 1. *Where do your roots go when crisis hits?*
 - **The Unplanted Life** – when financial, relational, or health crises strike, your immediate actions are panic, anger, or turning to unhealthy coping mechanisms (addictions, toxic relationships). Colossians 2:6-7

- **The Planted Life** – your immediate actions is to pull from a deeper source.

2. *What is feeding you in secret?* A tree's root is completely hidden underground.

- **The Unplanted Life** – you are fed mostly by public praise, social media algorithms, and constant entertainment. If any of these things are cutoff, you dry up and feel empty.
- **The Planted Life** – the health of the tree depends on what it's consuming. You have a "hidden history" with God. You possess a private prayer life. Psalm 92:12

3. *Are you stable or easily uprooted?*

- **The Unplanted Life** – you are highly volatile. Critical comments and cultural trends can be a major setback.
- **The Planted Life** – you have consistent core convictions.

4. *What kind of fruit do you produce under pressure?*

- **The Unplanted Life** – when times get hard, you become self-absorbed, bitter, protective, and impulsive.
- **The Planted Life** – amazingly, hardship often makes you more fruitful. You actively look for ways to serve and bless others despite your own pain.

3. **The Problem of Inward Deception (vs 9)**

- A. **The Condition:** Intrinsic deceit, heart, mind, will, emotions, are all prone to self-justification. Masking true motives under the guise of good intentions. Mark 7:21-23
- B. **The Severity:** deeply sick "beyond cure" (or desperately wicked).
 - Apart from divine intervention, the human heart cannot repair itself. Ezekiel 36:26
- C. **The Blindness:** Chronically misunderstood
 - "Who can understand it?" Humanity is fundamentally blind to the depths of its own internal corruption, requiring God to search it (vs 10). Jeremiah 17:10